

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

516654

PCT/JP2003/005567



Applicant's or agent's file reference F-1843	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/JP2003/005567	International filing date (day/month/year) 01 May 2003 (01.05.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 02 May 2002 (02.05.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C14C 9/00, D06M 23/00		
Applicant MINAMIURA, Masaki		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 25 November 2003 (25.11.2003)	Date of completion of this report 02 August 2004 (02.08.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2003/005567

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☒ the international application as originally filed
- ☐ the description:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the claims:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the drawings:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP 03/05567

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12	YES
	Claims	1-3, 6, 8, 11	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	4, 5, 9, 10	YES
	Claims	1-3, 6-8, 11, 12	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-12	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Document 1: WO 99/19081 A1 (Union Carbide Chemicals & Plastics Technology Corp.), 22 April 1999; entire text & JP 13-519237 A; entire text

Document 2: EP 0170611 A1 (Ciba Geigy AG), 5 February 1986; entire text & JP 60-231865 A; entire text

Document 3: JP 48-35640 B1 (Kanebo, Ltd.), 29 October 1973; entire text (Family: none)

Document 1, claim 17, discloses a compressed fluid which comprises at least one supercritical fluid at the temperature and pressure at which the liquid mixture is sprayed; claim 19 discloses forming a liquid mixture containing an additive composition and a compressed fluid in a closed pressurized system, with said liquid mixture here being at least capable of adhering to and capable of penetrating into a flexible sheet material; claim 20 discloses leather as an aforementioned flexible material; paragraph [0056] mentions that the additives in the aforementioned additive composition are fragrances, perfumes, deodorizing agents, antifungal agents, antimicrobial agents and other active ingredients; paragraph [0057] mentions that oils and waxes can be used as additives; and paragraph [0051] mentions carbon dioxide as a compound

which can be used in the compressed fluid. Therefore, claims 1-3, 6, 8 and 11 are not novel and do not involve an inventive step.

Claims 7 and 12 set forth inventions relating to methods for producing materials for processing skin products such as hides and furs, or for making skin products, by impregnating an oil or fat constituent such as a fatliquoring agent into the tissue and fibres of the skin in the fatliquoring step in the leather tanning process; and these do not involve an inventive step, since a person skilled in the art could easily conceive of simply using oils or waxes, etc., which are additives mentioned in document 1, paragraph [0057], in the fatliquoring step in the leather tanning process.

The inventions set forth in claims 4, 5, 9 and 10, on the other hand, are novel and involve an inventive step, since none of the documents cited in the international search report discloses removing impurities such as residual lipids and moisture in the tissue and fibres of the animal skin before impregnating the active ingredients into these tissue and fibres, and using a high-pressure fluid for this removal of impurities; and this feature is not obvious to a person skilled in the art.